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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/088,584	05/21/2002	Arne Johansson	1807-0160P	4871

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BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

SHARMA, RASHMI K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3651

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
10/088,584

Applicant(s)
Arne Johansson

Examiner
Rashmi Sharma

Art Unit
3651



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 21, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fontaine et al. (U.S. Patent number 3,606,384).

Fontaine et al. discloses an extension device for vehicles comprising a framework with a front end section (left side of figure 2) and a rear end section (right side of figure 2) where the vehicle has forward and rearward vehicle sections (see figure 1), where there is a first articulation member (36) being connected to a second articulation member (38) for allowing pivoting of the vehicle sections relative to one another about a longitudinal axis of the vehicle and a third articulation member (37) in connection with one of the first or second articulation members (36 or 38). Fontaine et al. also discloses the first articulation member (36) comprising a pivot pin (see figure 2) having a circular cross section connected to the third articulation member (37) having a pivot sleeve (the area of 37 where either the pin connects 37 to 36 or area where the spring 42 connects to 36) with a circular cross section, two parallel girders (27 and 28) extending between the end sections, an upper supporting portion (22, 24 or 26) having an aperture (see figure 1, both ends of 26) for allowing access to the inside of the extension device, a lower portion (11) and side portions (26), all portions extending between the end sections, and a guide pin (30a) with a substantially cylindrical cross section being arranged on the rear end section.

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Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

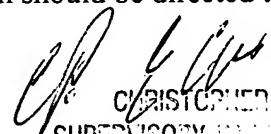
Dependent claim 7 recites the structural limitations of the guide pin having a ball bearing assembly for supporting a cardan shaft that extends through the extension device. The ball bearing assembly cooperating with the guide pin for supporting the cardan shaft extending through the extension device allows for the transfer of torque supplied by the forward vehicle section through the extension device to the rear vehicle section via the cardan shaft arrangement.

Dependent claim 8 recites the structural limitation of a brake disc arranged on the cardan shaft and cooperating with a brake caliper that is fixedly connected to the extension device. The brake disc arrangement on the cardan shaft cooperating with the brake caliper allows for braking action effected onto the rear wheels (6 and 7) of the vehicle.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Rashmi Sharma who can be reached at 703-306-5952 Monday through Friday.

Any general inquiry concerning the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist who can be reached at 703-308-1113.


CHRISTOPHER D. ELLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 6000